

As Rochester's Leading Rail Advocate, Slaughter Says "Rochester will be able to be proud of the station that welcomes travelers to the Flower City."

Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Chairwoman of the Upstate Congressional Caucus and national rail advocate, today announced that she has secured \$15 million to build a new intermodal train and bus station in downtown Rochester bringing the biggest boost yet to her effort to improve rail travel to and from Rochester's downtown station.

The station on North Clinton Avenue was designed to be a temporary structure when it was built in 1978.

Today's announcement is one of many steps Slaughter has taken [to improve transportation options in Western New York](#)

understanding that modern transportation facilitates economic development.

"I'm absolutely delighted that we can finally move forward with a station worthy of the people and institutions that call Rochester home. While there is still more work to be done, this is long awaited and much needed good news for everyone in the greater Rochester area," said Slaughter who founded both the Upstate Congressional Caucus and the High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus. "For the travelers that have come to Rochester by train, we haven't done much to roll out the welcome mat to thank the growing number of them for coming for our world-class companies and universities, but that's about to change. Thanks to the money I was able to secure, they'll not only come to a modern facility but also have access to other modes of transportation allowing them a variety of options to reach their destination.

"I want to thank my friend Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari for their partnership in this project. I know they both share my understanding that when we improve our transportation systems, we quite literally lay the track for economic growth," said Slaughter. "I also want to thank my good friends Commissioner Joan McDonald and Mayor Thomas Richards. The TIGER grant application they prepared was extraordinarily compelling. But their support went further- in a time of strained fiscal resources Commissioner McDonald and Mayor Richards together found \$8 million, key leverage for these federal dollars."

Slaughter [welcomed Secretary LaHood to the Rochester train station in April 2010.](#)

The \$15 million secured today by Slaughter [adds to the \\$2.8 million she secured](#) from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and additional stimulus funding rejected by Florida for the scoping and design of the station.

In addition to the \$15 million made available by the TIGER grant program, the station's design and construction will also receive \$7.5 million pledged by the New York Department of Transportation and \$500,000 from the City of Rochester.

"This is a project the whole community supported," said Slaughter. "Everyone from business leaders to students understand the importance of having a modern, functional station instead of one which has long outgrown its use. Every year more and more passengers are coming through the Rochester station. We can't possibly think that the current station, which won't even let you get a rollerbag or stroller onto a train without a fuss, is sufficient. Thanks to this funding, Rochester will be able to be proud of the station that welcomes travelers to the Flower City."

During the grant application process, Slaughter wrote to Secretary LaHood and brought together business, education and transportation stakeholders to urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund the much needed improvements to Rochester's dilapidated station. On February 10, Slaughter hosted a meeting with DOT Secretary LaHood, DOT Deputy Secretary Porcari, NYS DOT Commissioner McDonald and Mayor Richards to discuss progress on the Rochester station project.

According to estimates from rail experts, the number of rail passengers expected to use the Rochester station will double by 2035. Last year 140,000 people came through the station, five percent more than the year before.

Over the past five years, ridership has increased by 40 percent along the Empire Corridor which stretches across Upstate New York.

Construction of the station is also guaranteed to create jobs. With an estimated 50 new workers during the 12 month design phase and another 99 jobs during the 30 month construction of the station.

Funding secured by Slaughter has been patiently awaited by local rail and transportation advocates who have long praised Slaughter's leadership to improve Upstate's rail service. Today supporters cheered the news and praised Slaughter's tenacity in bringing the much needed federal funding back home.

"The new intermodal transportation center will not only greatly improve intercity and regional mobility for the citizens of the Rochester area, it will also create badly needed jobs and spur economic activity in an area of the city particularly hard hit in recent years," said Bruce Becker, President of the Empire State Passengers Association.

Congresswoman Slaughter's leadership includes support for the Niagara Falls passenger train station which is currently under construction. She has helped secure funding for track and signaling improvements up and down the Empire Corridor ensuring improved on-time performance of passenger trains.

Last month, the second public meeting was held seeking public input on a design for the new station proposed by Bergmann Associates. The proposed design is a modern interpretation of one of the early stations in Rochester, Union Station or the Bragdon Station as it was also known, which opened in 1914.